Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 50, No. 15 Published Biweekly July 29, 1991

The Selection Office

Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: One of thousands: Galina Tschursin, assistant selections officer, Bede Sullivan, detailed to the office from Descriptive Cataloging, and Lolita Silva, assistant selections officer, discuss one of the thousands of books reviewed yearly by the Selection Office. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Cover Story: Hundreds of thousands of items must be reviewed by the Selection Office yearly. Many of the office's decades-old policies are still effective today. 293

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PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER
by the Library of Congress
Printing and Processing Section

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

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Rally for Libraries Arrives in Washington

Dr. Billington Addresses Crowd

For once it was librarians who were making all the noise. They were on hand for the "Rally for America's Libraries" July 9 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library in Washington.

Hundreds of librarians and library supporters gathered to promote libraries and protest budget cutbacks that are hurting libraries nationwide.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, one of the speakers at the rally, told the crowd that libraries must be supported for the sake of America and its citizens. "Democracy has to be knowledge-based," he said. "You are sources for the continuing renewal of our country's knowledge."

The rally, sponsored by the American Library Association, was the final stop for the ALA's "Rally on Wheels" bus caravan campaign.

The bus tour set out with Washington as its destination, at the conclusion of the ALA's 110th Annual Conference in Atlanta. Along the way, "Rally on Wheels" stopped for various community events at libraries in North and South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

Before Dr. Billington and other speakers addressed the crowd, the U.S. Navy Band played as people cheered and marched with signs saying, among other things, "Kids Who Read Succeed," "Libraries Are Worth It," and "Save Money, Fund Libraries."

Many libraries across the nation are closing, reducing staff and cutting operating hours because they are "probably the least adequately funded of all social services," Dr. Billington said.

This assertion was backed up by an ALA report that details the results of widespread funding cuts:

☐ Massachusetts has closed some 20 branch libraries and a number of bookmobiles.

Dr. Billington addresses the rallyers outside Washington's main library; the Librarian and acting Deputy Librarian of Congress Winston Tabb discuss public library problems. *Photos by Reid Baker*

☐ The public library in Gray, Maine, has reduced its hours from 40 to 16 per week, and many special programs, such as story hours, have disappeared.

☐ In Philadelphia, the public library has canceled orders for 2,000

(Cont. on p. 284)

ATTENTION

The *Information Bulletin* will not be published Aug. 26. Publication will resume with the Sept. 9 issue, Vol. 50, No. 17.

Jesse Jackson Addresses ALA Conference

Audience of 8,000 Responds with Cheers, Applause

The mood at the 110th Annual Conference of the American Library Association (ALA) June 29–July 4 in Atlanta was one of optimism tempered by the reality that many of the nation's libraries are in fiscal straits.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who opened the June 29 General Session, was greeted by a standing ovation from the crowd of 8,000.

Librarians "have done so much to make America a better place, a place of opportunity for everyone," he said. "You are on a quest to redeem the soul of America."

Then the former Democratic Party presidential hopeful turned to politics. "The mess we are in economically that has caused librarians to march [at a rally at the convention center following his speech] is the result of a shift 11 years ago"—an apparent reference to the election of Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Jackson, calling for "new assumptions" on the part of the federal government, said: "We bailed out Japan and Germany. . . . Now we have a plan to bail out Eastern Europe. The Soviets and Eastern Europe do need a bailout . . . but our first priority should be to bail out America."

The audience cheered as Mr. Jackson built up to his patented fever pitch.

According to the ALA, Washington provides only 1.4 percent of local libraries' funding. The vast majority—80.2 percent—comes from local governments. The rest is from donations and state governments.

Not only have public libraries been forced to shut their doors completely or scale back hours of operation, but school libraries have been hard hit as well. Seventy-five percent of the New York Public Library System's 82 branches are closed three or more days a week. At the Albuquerque Library

More than 8,000 crowded the World Congress Center in Atlanta. *Photos by Guy Lamolinara*

Jackson: "Librarians have done much to make America better."

Rally *(Cont. from p. 283)*

new books while delaying the reopening of three of its branches.

Dr. Billington urged those in attendance to publicize the problems facing libraries. "I hope on your return home, you'll all become ambassadors for libraries.

"The Library of Congress is grateful for the relationship we have with local libraries across America, because our well-being depends on yours," he said.

The "Libraries Are Worth It" rally featured other guests and speakers, including New York novelist Richard Peck, who said, "I am here because I am a writer, and while I can't represent all writers living or dead, librarians can. I read because every journey begins at the library."

Children at the rally were entertained by the Baltimore Orioles mascot, the Oriole Bird, along with Garfield the Cat, and Pointer, the New Literacy "spokespencil."

—Jennifer Johnson

System, New Mexico's largest, hours have been cut at 12 branches and staff has been reduced by 15 percent.

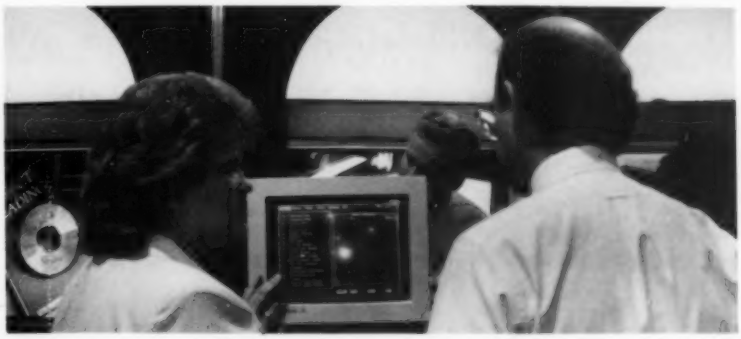
"When libraries are closed for the masses, that's a frightening thing," Mr. Jackson said.

He then reminisced about his youth, referring to the "Libraries Are Worth It" caravan that was headed to Washington (see story, page 283) via his birthplace, Greenville, S.C. He recounted how he had been once shut out from the "whites only" library when the "colored" library did not have the books he needed. He returned the following summer and was arrested for asserting his "right to read."

Were he in a position to do so, Mr. Jackson said he would change spending priorities in Washington. Funding for education, including libraries, would increase because "education is cheaper than rehabilitation."

The battle for libraries "comes down to character," he said, and character is measured by the way a society takes care of its least fortunate citizens.

—*Guy Lamolinara*



Deborah Ramsey of Cataloging Distribution Service gives a demo to a visitor at the LC booth; Chuck Gialloreto of Information Technology Services shows a visitor the new ACCESS search system.

House Passes National Research and Education Network Bill

The House on July 11 passed by voice vote H.R. 656, the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991, which would create a National Research and Education Network (NREN).

The NREN was the subject of a June 30 program at the American Library Association Annual Conference, "Crossing Information Frontiers: The Impact of National Networks on Reference Service and Research in the Nineties," sponsored by ALA's Reference and Adult Services Division.

The bill envisions participation by all types of libraries in cooperation with federal, state and local agencies, educational institutions and private businesses. This is to ensure that there is wide access to the network.

Before the bill becomes law, however, it must pass the Senate, where a compromise version of two NREN bills, S. 272 and S. 343, is emerging and expected to be passed this session, according to the ALA.

"This compromise bill also includes libraries. Good news, but libraries will also need to tap other legislative vehicles and other sources of funding to ensure widespread access," said the association.

Peter Lyman, director of the Center for Scholarly Technology at the University of Southern California, addressed just this issue when he asked during the program, "Is the real revolution [in technology] a cost shift? Will the end user pay for information" that is now free?

Mr. Lyman also had misgivings about NREN's being able to "deliver information to users wherever they are. Information is most useful when someone is working on a problem, since the value of much information is time-sensitive."

The issue of access was just one of many addressed during the program. For example, copyright problems will have to be overcome before much of the information available can be put on-line. And once it is on-line, the public will have to learn how to use the system.

Perhaps the problems were best summarized by speaker Ward Shaw, director of the Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries: "Technology has far outstripped our ability to know what to do with it."

—*Guy Lamolinara*

Nobel Laureate Weisel Speaks on 'Learning and Tolerance'

Speech at LC Kicks Off New Lecture Series

"Libraries are the nation's oldest institutions dedicated to the freedom of learning," Elie Weisel, author and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, told an audience of more than 300 at the Library's Montpelier Room July 9.

Speaking on "Learning and Tolerance" as the first B'nai B'rith Drabinsky lecturer, the celebrated author explored the role of tradition in learning, calling the printed word essential, not only for the books themselves but for the corporate memory they foster. "Buildings may crumble and monuments may fall apart but words survive," he said, adding that "if we feel the sacredness of this library, it is because of the thousands of people who have been here before us. . . . We are in touch with all the people who have read these books over the years. . . . I am the sum total of their experience—all those who have gone before."

"Tolerance means to have the questions; fanaticism means to have the answers. . . . I have intolerance of one thing, and that is fanaticism."

—Elie Weisel

He urged respect for the beliefs of other individuals and spoke of the inestimable value of each human being, saying that all the books of any library are not worth the life of an individual. He also reminded that tolerance must be extended to the children of evildoers, who are merely children.

He gave listeners a definition of tolerance vs. fanaticism: "Tolerance means to have the questions; fanaticism means to have the answers."

Mr. Weisel related his recent experience in Romania, where during the past few weeks he was dismayed by a growing antisemitism. Newspaper articles carrying antisemitic statements are not being countered by leadership, he said. When he asked Romanians why people were not speaking out against intolerance, he was told it was because of fear of retribution.

"I have intolerance of one thing," he concluded, "and that is fanaticism."

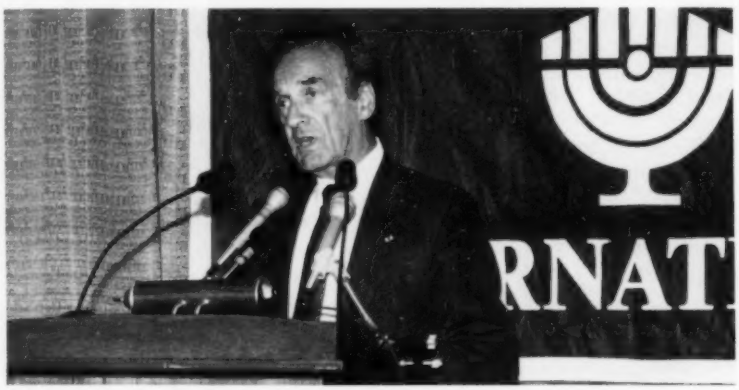
Elie Weisel is University Professor and Andrew Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University. He is author of *Night, Dawn, Day, The Fifth Son, The Golem, Somewhere a Master, The Testament, A Jew Today,* and *The Trial of God.*

In 1984 he was awarded the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal and was named a commander of the French Legion of Honor.

Mr. Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington greeted guests attending the lecture; he said it was part of "1991—The Year of the Lifetime Reader," the national reading promotion program initiated by the Center for the Book, directed by John Y. Cole. Dr. Billington also recognized the contribution of Mark E. Talisman and the Project Judaica Foundation in making possible the current exhibition of treasures from the Library's collections, "From the Ends of the Earth."

The efforts of Rabbi Abraham J. Karp, curator of the exhibition and author of the accompanying catalog; Michael Grunberger, head of the Library's Hebraic section; and Irene Burnham, chief of Interpretive Programs, were also recognized.



B'nai B'rith International President Kent E. Schiner introduced the founder of the lecture series, Garth H. Drabinsky, chairman of the Toronto-based Live Entertainment Corp., for whom several hundred friends and associates contributed more than $1 million, to make the B'nai B'rith Drabinsky Lecture Series possible.

Mr. Drabinsky, a 40-year-old entrepreneur, expressed his hopes that the series, presented by major scholars, would help advance human understanding in years to come.

Three Events Mark Opening Of Judaic Treasures Exhibit

Exhibition Opening. "From the Ends of the Earth: Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress" was greeted with rave reviews from invited guests at the opening night reception on Wednesday, June 19.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington praised the efforts of everyone who made the exhibition possible, and Mark Talisman, president of the Project Judaica Foundation, which supported the exhibition with a generous grant, expressed his own delight with the completion of the project to which he had devoted so much energy for the past four years.

Presentation of Haggadah. A limited-edition facsimile of the Washington Haggadah was produced by the Library of Congress in cooperation with the Project Judaica Foundation as part of this celebration.

Printed by Martino Mardersteig of Stamperia Valdonega, Verona, Italy, the facsimile edition comes in a handsome box, printed in full color plus gold, accompanied by a separate commentary volume, which is also illustrated. It was edited by Myron M. Weinstein, former head of the Library's Hebraic Section.

Copies of the facsimile are available from the Project Judaica Foundation, 300 Eye Street NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Hebrew Book Symposium. Topics from Hebrew illuminated manuscripts to 15th century Jewish printing houses were discussed June 20 at the Library's Symposium on the Hebrew Book. The symposium coincided with the opening of the Judaic treasures exhibit.

Michael W. Grunberger, head of the Hebraic Section, said the event marked the section's 75th anniversary. "This symposium was truly a collaborative project. It could not have happened without the dedicated efforts of many people from inside and outside the Library," he said.

The Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Maryland cosponsored the symposium with LC's Center for the Book. "The Jews are people of the book. The written word has been their vehicle for acquiring and transmitting information for over 1,000 years," said Adele Berlin, Meyerhoff Center director and a professor of Hebrew.

The symposium began with Myron Weinstein, who spoke on "The Deinard Collections of the Library of Congress."

Other speakers' topics included "Illuminating the Word: Medieval Hebrew Manuscript Painting," "The Hebrew Book in the Ottoman Empire," "The Hebrew Book in Italy," "The Hebrew Book in the New World" and "Contemporary Book Arts: Hebraica and Judaica."

—Helen Dalrymple and Jennifer Johnson

Michael Grunberger shows Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) an unusually large Ashkenazi megillah scroll, dating from the 14th or 15th century; Mark Talisman (right), president of Project Judaica Foundation, presents the Librarian with a copy of the facsimile of the Washington Haggadah, which includes a special dedication to Dr. Billington, "whose faith in this entire project motivated us all." Printer Martino Mardersteig stands between them. *Photos by Reid Baker*

Former Poet Laureate Nemerov Dies

Howard Nemerov, whose poetry was once described by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington as ranging "from the profound to the poignant to the comic," died July 5 of cancer at his home in University City, Mo. He was 71.

The 1978 Pulitzer Prize winner was Poet Laureate in 1988–90. He was the third person to hold the post, following Robert Penn Warren and Richard Wilbur. He was succeeded by Mark Strand, and Joseph Brodsky will assume the role this September.

According to Nancy Galbraith, head of the Poetry and Literature Center, "Howard Nemerov was not only respected by his fellows up at the summit of American letters—the other Olympians, you might say—but he was loved as well. In his character as in his writing, there was no trace of the bogus, not the slightest hint of sham.

"He said precisely what he meant," she added, "in prose and discourse as well as in his splendid poems. At the end of a Nemerov poem, I most often reacted, 'Bull's eye!' Indeed, he himself liked to define a poem as 'getting something right in language.' I commend to all, for a real treat and a sizable sampling of his range, the recent *A Howard Nemerov Reader.*"

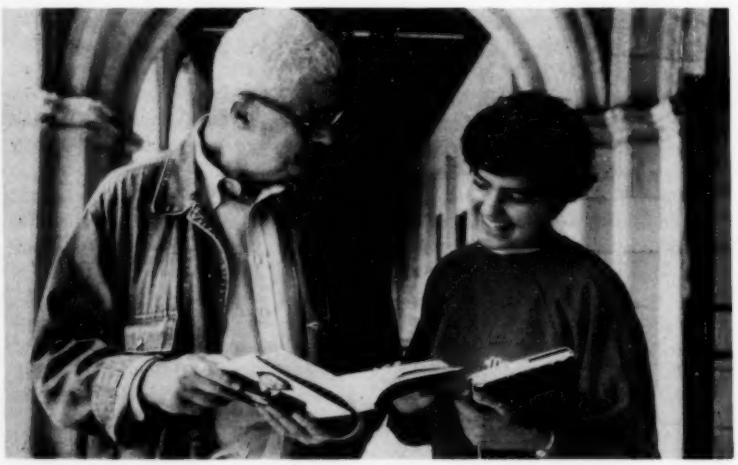
Although there is no requirement for the incumbent to write any "official" poetry, Mr. Nemerov did just that, addressing a March 2, 1989, meeting of the House and Senate and reading his poem "To the Congress of the United States Entering Its Third Century."

When he was appointed, Mr. Nemerov called the job a "sort of combination emcee and doorman."

During his stay at the Library, he also wrote a poem for the Combined Federal Campaign, the government-wide fundraising effort for the United Way.

Born in New York City in 1920, Mr. Nemerov graduated from Harvard University in 1941. He served as an Army Air Forces fighter-pilot during World War II. He has taught at Hamilton College, Bennington College and Brandeis University.

(Cont. on p. 289)



Howard Nemerov and one of the many students with whom he enjoyed discussing literature while at the Library.

To the Congress Of the United States Entering Its Third Century

because reverence has never been
america's thing,
this verse in your honor will not
begin "o thou."
but the great respect our country
has to give
may you all continue to deserve,
and have.

* * *

here at the fulcrum of us all,
the feather of truth against the soul
is weighed, and had better be
found to balance
lest our enterprise collapse in
silence.

for here the million varying wills
get melted down, get hammered out
until the movie's reduced to stills
that tell us what the law's about.

conflict's endemic in the mind:
your job's to hear it in the wind
and compass it in opposites,
and bring the antagonists by your
wits

to being one, and that the law
thenceforth, until you change your
minds
against and with the shifting winds
that this and that way blow the
straw.

so it's a republic, as franklin said,
if you can keep it; and we did
thus far, and hope to keep our
quarrel
funny and just, though with this
moral:—

praise without end for the go-
ahead zeal
of whoever it was invented the
wheel;
but never a word for the poor
soul's sake
that thought ahead, and invented
the brake.

—Howard Nemerov

Nemerov *(Cont. from p. 288)*

After leaving Washington last year, he returned to teaching at Washington University in St. Louis, where since 1969 he had been a professor of English.

In addition to his *Collected Poems*, which won the Pulitzer, Mr. Nemerov also published other collections of poetry, including *Image and the Law* (1947), *Gnomes & Occasions* (1973) and *War Stories* (1987). What is thought to have been his last poem was recently published in the June 24 *New Yorker*. To many, the poem sounded like a farewell.

In addition to poetry, Mr. Nemerov also published essays and novels. His third novel, *The Homecoming* (1957), was made into a movie starring Anthony Perkins and Jane Fonda. It was the story of a professor who flunks a college's athletic hero just before he is about to play the big game.

Mr. Nemerov was survived by his wife of 47 years, Margaret, three sons, his mother and a sister. Another sister was the late photographer Diane Arbus.

The last poem he published before his death, "The End of the Opera," seems to be his goodbye poem, said Ms. Galbraith, "although Howard always taught that 'a good poem never says only one thing about only one thing.'"

The final book of new poems, some written during his stay at LC, will be published in October by the University of Chicago Press. The title poem, written here and shown to the Librarian during their last meeting in May 1990, concludes:

What rational being, after seventy years,
when Scripture says he's running out of rope,
would want more of the only world he knows?

No rational being, he while he endures
holds on to the inveterate infantile hope
that the road ends but as the runway does.

Excerpt from "Trying Conclusions"

—*Guy Lamolinara*

TV Reporter Interviews LC Specialist On Zachary Taylor Exhumation

Zachary Taylor, 12th president of the United States (1849–1850), was not the most political of politicians. Until he cast a ballot for himself in his own election, he had never before voted. Death ended his term in office after only 16 months.

Such a reluctant politician would probably be surprised to find himself once again in the limelight—141 years after his death. But Clara Rising, a Florida-based writer who is working on a book about Taylor, was able to convince the coroner in Louisville, Ky., where Taylor is buried, that he may have been poisoned by arsenic. Had she been right, Taylor, not Lincoln, would be the first president to have been assassinated. History would have had to be rewritten. The body was thus exhumed June 15.

"The theory is plausible, but not likely," said Marvin Kranz, a specialist in American history in the Manuscript Division. He was interviewed on the day of the exhumation by a Fox Television reporter for its evening broadcast.

On June 26, Dr. Kranz's hunch proved correct: In a long-winded news conference designed to take up as much airtime as possible, Louisville officials declared that Taylor was not murdered and had no more arsenic in his body than would be normal for a person of that era.

Dr. Kranz told the TV reporter that it was more likely Taylor had been killed by his doctor than by an assassin. "Four presidents, including Washington, were probably killed [unintentionally] by their doctors" due to the poor state of medical care at the time, Dr. Kranz said.

The other two presidents who might have died from inadequate medical care after taking gunshot from an assassin's bullet were James A. Garfield in 1881 and William McKinley 20 years later.

According to most theories, what happened to Taylor was the result of a little too much partying. On July 4, 1850, the president attended a celebration for the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument. "He ate immoderately and afterward had a stomach ache. His condition

Taylor: He wasn't assassinated after all.

was worsened by his doctor," said Dr. Kranz. Taylor died of cholera morbus, a gastrointestinal illness. He was given quinine and mercury, which likely speeded up his death.

So why would anyone have wanted to assassinate Taylor? "He was a slaveowner," said Dr. Kranz, "but he was willing to let California enter the Union as a free state if it wanted to." It was possible that California would tip the balance in Congress against the continuance of slavery, thus making Taylor a target for animosity. "But the California theory is merely an assumption," said Dr. Kranz.

"A president's life is always in danger," he concluded.

—*Guy Lamolinara*

Dr. Billington receives award from Roh Tae Woo (left) and Paik Young Sun, protocol officer.

Librarian Receives Award from South Korean President

President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea on July 2 presented James H. Billington with the Order of Service Merit, Gwanghwa Medal, the highest award that can be given to an individual who is not a Korean citizen.

Dr. Billington, who inspired efforts to establish a Korean Section at LC during the past year, is recognized for his longstanding support for Korean scholars at the Library as well as during his tenure as director of the Woodrow Wilson Center.

In January, after visits to South Korea by Library specialists, the International Cultural Society of Korea donated $1 million to the Library to fund the new section. The Library has the largest collection of Korean materials in the United States. The collection contains some 100,000 items, from an essay written in 1251 A.D. to recent government publications acquired through an exchange agreement with the Korean government.

The award to Dr. Billington was presented at Blair House, where the South Korean president was staying during his three-day state visit to Washington.

American Memory Adds 37 New Test Sites

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced that 37 schools, libraries and research institutions in the United States have been selected by the Library as new sites to test a program that will disseminate computerized versions of LC collections.

American Memory provides access to collections from the Library that pertain to American history and culture. The program uses new technologies, such as optical disks, to disseminate electronic copies of archival photographs, manuscripts, music, motion pictures, books and sound recordings to libraries and other institutions across the United States.

The American Memory prototype to be evaluated will include 267 documents of the Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention; 1,000 photographs of the Civil War by photographer Mathew Brady and others; 500 political cartoons about Congress from 1770–1981; 60 sound recordings of America's leaders from the early 20th century; the texts and illustrations of over 300 rare pamphlets written by African-Americans; and early motion pictures of President William McKinley. Software is provided to access cataloging information about each item; printed guides enhance educational use.

A special team of Library of Congress staff members will supervise the evaluation. Information from participating sites will be collected by telephone, questionnaire and site visits. A special electronic "note pad" feature will allow users to record their comments about the prototype as they work. All of the information collected will contribute to the refinement of the American Memory program.

The thirty-seven new sites are: Arizona State University, Tempe; Barnard College Library, New York City; Bismarck Public Schools, Bismarck, N.D.; Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, Buffalo, N.Y.; California State Library, Sacramento; Charles Blackstock Junior High School, Oxnard, Calif.; College Grove School, College Grove, Tenn.; Columbia Public Schools, Columbia, Mo.; East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C.; East Central Independent School District, San Antonio; Educational Service District 113, Olympia, Wash.; Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore; Fox Hill Elementary School, Indianapolis; Gibraltar Area Schools, Fish Creek, Wis.; Hampton University, Hampton, Va.; Jefferson Davis Parish Library, Jennings, La.; Liverpool Public Library, Liverpool, N.Y.; Lubbock Independent School District, Lubbock, Texas; Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; New Mexico State University, Las Cruces; Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City; Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, N.C.; Reed High School, Sparks, Nev.; Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, Pagosa Springs, Colo.; Simmons College, Library School, Boston, Mass.; Sioux Falls Public Library, Sioux Falls, S.D.; St. Mark's High School, Wilmington, Del.; St. Petersburg Junior College, Pinellas Park, Fla.; Sussex County Vocational Technical High School, Georgetown, Del.; Newberry Library, Chicago; University of Colorado at Boulder; University of Georgia, Athens; University of Montana, Missoula; University of San Diego; Wayne State University, Detroit; West Chester University, West Chester, Pa.; and Yuma School District One, Yuma, Ariz.

The evaluation will also be carried out in seven sites that participated in an early round of testing.

How a Soviet Librarian Upset Her Bosses

Librarians are widely believed to be quiet and obedient, and generally "not meant to lead strikes," said the acting director of the State Library of Foreign Literature in the Soviet Union at a Library of Congress Professional Association-sponsored lecture June 22. Yet a strike is just what Ekaterina Genieva led.

Ms. Genieva, a Soviet scholar of 19th and 20th century British literature who has published more than 20 works on James Joyce, has, among other things, led a strike against the former director of the State Library of Foreign Literature. When an inefficient director resigned, "we at the library wanted to be allowed to vote for a new director," she said.

There was no such move, however, and the director of another important library in the Soviet Union, the Lenin Library, was transferred over to become the new director.

It soon became clear to Ms. Genieva and her colleagues that the new director was unsuited for working with foreign collections. "She had no idea how to cope with the Western culture," Ms. Genieva said. "She only knew the Soviet library way. We wanted somebody professional, with an understanding of the West."

The strike Ms. Genieva led was "very painful"—and very unconventional by Western standards. To make a strong statement, she and her fellow strikers worked twice as long while refusing to accept their paychecks, a way of striking she described as purely "Soviet-style."

Most of the 700 library employees supported the strike, but "with the low pay the library workers receive, it was impossible for even half of them to actually be on strike." In all, 52 library workers struck, and in the end "we got what we wanted. . . . We were allowed to vote in the new director."

"There are many problems. I must say, though, that while life is difficult in my country, we are having a fascinating time."
—Ekaterina Genieva

The struggle at the State Library of Foreign Literature is partially representative of what is happening on a larger scale throughout the Soviet Union. "There are many problems," Mrs. Genieva said. "I must say, though, that while life is difficult in my country, we are having a fascinating time."

Because of the changes sweeping the Soviet Union, Ms. Genieva is reluctant to use the complete, formal title of the library: All Union State Library of Foreign Literature. "I try to exclude or omit the first two words, because I'm not sure the Union still exists," she said. "The Baltic republics are struggling for independence, and I'm pretty sure what is happening in Georgia and Armenia will be coming very quickly to other individual states."

Since the years when Lenin was in power, much progress has been made, she said. "A library's main task is to offer the free approach to any information, but that is exactly what the Soviet people were devoid of."

Lenin envisioned libraries as tools for molding the minds of the Soviet people, she said. "Libraries were used to educate Soviets in a way that was desirable to the government." Ms. Genieva's dream for her library is "for it to be as independent as possible."

The State Library is mainly a library of collections. It was established in 1922 by Margarita Rudomino, an "outstanding lady—even then, she knew preservation was of the utmost importance," Ms. Genieva said.

Ms. Rudomino secured a small section of a Moscow church and with 22 book collections the library was started. It now has more than 5 million items.

Ms. Rudomino "was director of the library for half a century. She was a very brave lady and managed to bring experts, some of whom had been expelled or persecuted in other countries, to the library."

"Now, we try to preserve the tradition given to us by her," Ms. Genieva said. Cultural centers representing France, Britain and Germany are currently affiliated with the library.

U.S. Ambassador Jack Mattlock also had the idea of establishing an American reading room. "It was a splendid idea, not because we didn't have good American collections already, but because his idea was to open the shelves, give free access to the collections. This reading room is now very popular with our readers."

Ms. Genieva said it is interesting that books have been stolen from the American reading room. "The American Embassy is always very particular, wanting to know exactly which books were stolen. Actually, the stolen books are usually reference books about American colleges and universities."

—Jennifer Johnson

Collector Enriches LC's Map Holdings

Howard E. Welsh, a textile manufacturer who lived in Summit, N.J., purchased two maps some 40 years ago because he thought they were attractive and would add a decorative touch to his home. What he didn't count on was that his initial purchase would lead to a fascination with historic maps, atlases and globes that continued until his death last year.

Kathie Boan, Mr. Welsh's daughter, came to the Library in June to make a presentation to the Geography and Map Division from his collection because, as she said, "I wanted to do something as thanks for my dad; he was always so eager to learn."

On behalf of her father, Mrs. Boan presented the Library with two matching 1837 Wilson globes, one celestial and one terrestrial, and a 1798 surveyor's notebook belonging to Robert King Jr., showing dimensions and locations of 23 "squares" located in the city of Washington. As Mrs. Boan said, "his love for this collection was mirrored by sharing the history of these treasures with others." During his years of collecting, he accumulated some 1,000 maps and 100 globes, making his one of the finest globe collections in private hands in the United States. In 1967 he added a "map room" to his house. The rest of Mr. Welsh's collection was sold at auction by Sotheby's this spring, and the Library acquired several other maps and 22 globes at that time.

—Helen Dalrymple

Global Awareness: (from left) James Flatness, Ralph Ehrenberg and Richard Stephenson of Geography and Map join Kathie Boan in looking over the two globes she donated to the Library on behalf of her father. *Photo by Reid Baker*

Venezuelan Ambassador Visits Hispanic Division

Venezuelan Ambassador Simón Alberto Consalvi and Cutural Attaché Carlos Díaz-Sosa recently visited the Hispanic Division and used the occasion to present the Library with the 23-volume *Historia General de América*, edited by Guillermo Morón, president of the Venezuelan Academy of History.

The ambassador, who is also a well known author, gave the Library three of his own works, *Auge y caída de Rómulo Gallegos*, *De cómo el primer canciller de Juan Vicente Gómez instruyó al Ministro Plenipotenciario en Washington, 1909*, and *Pedro Manuel Arcaya y la crisis de los años 30*. An anthology of traditional Venezuelan music accompanied this gift.

Recently, several Venezuelan scholars have done research at the Library, and Cole Blasier, chief of the Hispanic Division, lectured at the Academy of History in Caracas.

Iêda Siqueira Wiarda, the recommending officer responsible for Venezuela, and Basil Malish and Barbara LaBarba from the Exchange and Gift Division also participated in the brief ceremony when these volumes were given to the Library through the Hispanic Division.

Examining the volumes donated to the Library are (from left):Iêda Siqueira Wiarda, Venezuelan Ambassador Simón Alberto Consalvi, Cole Blasier, Cultural Attaché Carlos Díaz-Sosa, and Basil Malish and Barbara LaBarba.

The Selection Office:
Filter Point for Much of LC's Acquisitions

by Peter Bridge

Tens of thousands of items come into the Library daily, but only a small percentage of them are kept for the permanent collections, which already number almost 100 million items.

Despite the need to separate the wheat from the chaff (and keep the wheat), the Selection Office formally came into existence only in July 1944. The office was established because the Library management recognized a need for unified control over the great mass of material which, even then, was acquired daily. Before 1940, selection activities had been dispersed widely throughout the Library and were governed by a bewildering combination of custom, precedent and personal decision.

For example, before 1940, Copyright deposits were examined by a Commission of Selection of Copyright Deposits, consisting of the superintendent of the Reading Rooms, the chief of the Accessions Division and the chief cataloger. Only bound volumes came under their scrutiny, leaving a cataloging assistant to examine the far larger volume of pamphlet deposits. Gifts and materials received on exchange, as well as items transferred from other federal agencies, were accessioned and processed to a considerable extent before questions would be raised as to their desirability.

With reorganization in 1940 came a partial consolidation of the selection procedure; gift and exchange receipts and copyright deposits were examined daily by an officer then designated as chief of the Catalog Preparation and Maintenance Division. In 1942, in a continuing mood of experimental adjustment, the Library vested this responsibility jointly with the reference librarian and director of the Processing Department.

Lolita Silva, assistant selections officer, decides whether to keep some books on the U.S. Constitution. *Photos by Jim Higgins*

This arrangement proved somewhat clumsy, especially as it was necessary to cut across departmental lines to obtain even the simplest policy decisions, while important classes of material (most glaringly, perhaps, those received by purchase) were excluded from selection review.

Thus, in 1943, responsibility for the selection and distribution of all unsolicited materials passed to the newly established Acquisitions Department, and for a brief time was carried out by the chief of the Exchange and Gift Division.

What was still needed, however, was an officer with complete, full-time responsibility for a control over the selection of unsolicited receipts and for codifying and reviewing existing policies. This was to be the principal charge of the newly established Selection Office.

Certain figures have played a key role in the Selection Office, helping through their continuous contribution to set the tone of the institution and give it its character. Jean B. Metz, the Library's selection officer who retired June 1, is such a person. Mrs. Metz spent 53 years at the Library. She joined the staff in October 1937 as a searcher in the former Card Division. She soon distinguished herself as an expert searcher, who, in the words of her chief, "has excellent judgment and plenty of common sense." Over the next few years she progressed to head reviser in the Card Division, where she was in charge of filing the depository set of cards for the *Catalog of Books Represented by the Library of Congress Printed Cards*, a 167-volume book catalog that founded the series represented by successive cumulations of the *National Union Catalog* and continued into the 1980s.

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Selection Office *(Cont. from p. 293)*

She next joined the staff of the Subject Cataloging Division, where she again distinguished herself by classifying books and assigning subject headings in the Social Sciences Section. All of this experience, of course, was only a prelude to the "Jean Metz Era," which began July 1945 with her appointment as assistant selection officer.

As so often happens, the very diversity of her earlier assignments gave her "a good vantage point for learning the Library's collections and the policies for their development as well as involving her in acquisitions and processing problems closely related to those of selecting," said then Selection Officer John Lester Nolan, who later became director of the Reference Department.

Armed with a well-rounded background, Mrs. Metz assumed her new duties—which included a brief stint as assistant editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Current Accessions*—with her characteristic incisiveness. The position into which she then stepped—she no doubt had no inkling she would continue in this work for more than four decades—was very new in 1945, as was the Selection Office itself.

Bede Sullivan, detailed to the office from Descriptive Cataloging, inspects a volume.

Jean Metz assisted John Nolan in determining which classes of material were being examined for selection and by whom. Together they established procedures that have endured with little change to the present day. Besides reviewing the various categories of nonpurchase acquisitions (by exchange, gift and transfer), federal and state publications, and Copyright deposits, they recommended selection decisions about other editions of works already in the collections. They also took responsibility for reviewing blanket order purchases, thus in broad outline defining the spectrum of the office's duties as they are still commonly understood.

They also took a look at selections policies and procedures, finding many of them to be "antiquated . . . spot decisions and the results of informal discussion." The first *Annual Report* from the fledgling office noted that "the most striking weakness in the existing rules for selection lies in the attempt to apply broad generalizations to groups of material so diverse and refractory in themselves that generalization inevitably leads to unforeseen and undesired results."

Consequently, they established the fundamental principle that "application of general policies has therefore been made subsidiary to evaluation of each item, keeping in mind its relationship to other works in its field, to current service demands and to future research value."

They also recognized a need for formal priorities for processing materials so that items of importance that had not previously received preferential treatment might be hastened through the pipeline. Also identified was the need to embark upon the preparation of a code of practices and policies relating to selection "which will serve as more than a guide to current practice; it should also raise previously unanswered questions and show where review and advice are needed for policies now in effect."

In March 1952, Mrs. Metz succeeded Mr. Nolan as selection officer. The policies established for the office during those early years became a solid foundation for the future. They have worked successfully despite constantly changing priorities, an ever increasing workload and the introduction of radically new library technologies.

Jean Metz, who established many of the policies still used today.

From 1950 through 1980, the office reviewed from 600,000 to 800,000 monographic items and made decisions on from 10,000 to 30,000 new serial titles yearly, examining the full array of materials (except for those in the vernacular languages of Asia and Africa) received by purchase, copyright, gift, exchange and transfer.

One of the selection officer's earliest tasks was to recommend changes in selection and acquisitions policies. Such matters, of course, require consultation with specialists and technical support staff. Thus in 1953 the Acquisitions Committee was established to discuss issues regarding policy, budget, collection "intensity," retention levels, etc. It enabled

the Selection Officer to get solutions to problems in a single venue and to reach agreement with representatives of all the Library's various departments on future policy. This formally linked acquisitions and selections with the Library's service needs to forge a collections development network.

The committee brought staff together to discuss these matters for the first time in the Library's history and, through rotating membership, assured broad participation in policy formulation among acquisitions and custodial specialists throughout the institution.

In the the late 1950s Mrs. Metz completed compilation of the *Acquisitions Policy Manual*, traditionally known as the *Selection Manual*. This massive document codified the selection policies and procedures promised in the first year of the Selection Office's operation. The manual was unofficially used until 1964, when it was finally officially approved. It is a work of historical interest, too, and may be the earliest comprehensive statement of acquisitions policy compiled by a major research library.

While the *Manual* continued to be used as a selection tool during the 1960s and 1970s, it was gradually displaced, for acquisitions purposes, by the more concise and frequently updated *Acquisitions Policy Statements*. But the *Manual* continues to be used for guidance.

For many years Mrs. Metz worked with only one assistant, Donald Woolery, who devoted his time almost exclusively to the selection of serials, while Mrs. Metz concentrated on monographs. Mr. Woolery reviewed new serials titles for possible addition to the collections. In this mammoth undertaking he reviewed 10,000 to 20,000 new titles annually and made a host of other decisions on the selection, custody and weeding out of serial files over the years. His knowledge of the serials holdings complemented Jean Metz's work with monographs. Mr. Woolery retired from the Library in 1983, and his successor, Galina Tschursin, continues his work with serials.

Galina Tschursin, assistant selections officer, reviewed more than 35,000 serials last year.

The staff of the Selection Office increased by only one member over the years and then only in response to the Copyright Office's move to suburban Virginia in 1969 (The office returned, to the newly completed Madison Building, in 1980). This required the Selection Office to send someone daily to Virginia to review incoming copyright materials.

Besides reviewing new materials for selection, Mrs. Metz and her assistants systematically reviewed the general collections. As she explained in her 1975 *Annual Report*, "The pruning of deadwood is essential to the healthy growth not only of a plant but also of a library, especially one as large, complex and crowded as ours. By deadwood is meant multiple copies of works that have been superseded by later editions, excess numbers of once-popular titles that were kept permanently . . . and duplicate sets of the little- or never-used serials as well as those that would be excluded entirely by present-day selection criteria."

Begun in fiscal 1962, the weeding process extended over many years, proceeding class by class and ultimately resulting in the removal of tens of thousands of monographic and serial volumes and the freeing up of several thousand linear feet of shelf space. The project continued through the 1970s.

The Selection Office is not commonly a stopping point for the average visitor and is rarely featured in news coverage and publicity about the Library. Yet it surely carries on one of the most important functions in making the Library, through its collections, what it is. Only through a visit with the Selection Office staff can one begin to visualize the magnitude and variety of the materials acquired by the Library. Only then can one begin to appreciate the level of expertise necessary to determine which items are to be kept and which discarded, what priority of treatment they are to receive, whether certain pieces will require special consultation with a subject or area specialist before decisions can be reached, and many other issues that need to be resolved in the process of collections building.

Because of the many channels through which the Library obtains materials and the fact that the bulk of them are received without specific request, a centralized filter point is essential. That point remains, even

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LC Exhibit Honors Kahlil Gibran

The 12 original drawings from *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran were part of an exhibit at the Library of Congress in conjunction with the May 24 dedication of the National Kahlil Gibran Memorial Garden in Washington.

The art was loaned to the Library by the National Committee of Gibran of Bsharri, Lebanon, where a museum built as a repository for Gibran's paintings, drawings and memorabilia are located. Other items in the exhibit were books by or about Gibran and designs of the memorial garden.

Kahlil Gibran, poet, philosopher and artist, was born in 1883 in the Lebanese mountain village of Bsharri, near the Holy Cedars of Lebanon. Along with his mother, two sisters and his half-brother, Gibran emigrated to Boston in 1895 when he was 12. Two years later, he returned to Lebanon to study ancient and modern Arabic literature and many other subjects. He graduated from the Catholic Madrasat al-Hikmah (School of Wisdom) in Beirut.

He returned to the United States in 1903 and lived and worked in Boston and New York his entire life, except from 1908 to 1910, when he studied art in Paris. Gibran died in New York on April 6, 1931. He was buried in Bsharri, very close to the Cedars of Lebanon.

A prolific writer, Gibran was the author of more than a dozen books, most of which he also illustrated. His best-known book, *The Prophet*, was published in 1923. The book is a series of 28 related prose poems on love, marriage, freedom, beauty, religion and death. Its central message is that love frees man from most of the ills of this world. His mysticism is evident in the 12 drawings that illustrate the book.

Now in its 109th printing, *The Prophet* has been translated into more than 50 languages and has sold more than 8 million copies in the United States.

Kahlil Gibran

A meditation garden at a wooded site in Washington was dedicated to Gibran's memory by President and Mrs. Bush on May 24. Entrance to the memorial is by a footbridge to a meditative garden with two fountains, colorful gardens and stone benches. Islamic designs on the upper terrace's granite paving are patterned after those found in the courtyard of the Beit ed-Dine Palace in Lebanon. A bronze sculpture of the poet above a narrow pool greets visitors as they enter the memorial. A circular pathway gradually leads upward to a terrace enclosed by limestone benches with quotations from Gibran carved on the back. In the center of the terrace is an eight-pointed star-shaped pool from which a fountain rises.

The memorial is the culmination of a nine-year effort by the Kahlil Gibran Centennial Foundation, which was launched in Washington in 1983, 100 years after the birth of Gibran. On Oct. 19, 1984, Congress passed a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 580) authorizing the foundation to establish the Kahlil Gibran Memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia.

In addition to the creation of the memorial garden, the foundation plans to organize a traveling exhibition of Gibran's art works and has a long-term goal to establish a repository in the United States for Kahlil Gibran's works and related memorabilia.

Other events during the Memorial Day weekend dedication included an exhibit, poetry and lecture reading at the Library of Congress, a special awards banquet and a gala evening for the performing and creative arts.

Among the books exhibited at the Library were an autographed first edition of *Damcah wa Ibtisamah* (A Tear and a Smile) published in 1914 by Alfred A. Knopf, the publisher of Gibran's books in English.

—Jean E. Tucker

Selection Office *(Cont. from p. 295)* as it was at the time of its founding in 1945, the Selection Office, whose staff, through their comprehensive knowledge of the collections as a whole and the policies governing their construction and growth, are best placed to apply policy with consistency and impartiality.

One new activity has been assigned to the Selection Office: it evaluates all materials prepared for microfilming or rebinding to determine if they are of sufficient importance to justify preservation costs. This activity has resulted in substantial savings to the Library over the years.

As one early *Annual Report* put it, "the Selection Officer enjoys a unique vantage point for an over-all perspective of the intake of publications. At no other spot in the process can the size and scope of the accessions be so fully appreciated."

Peter Bridge is principal acquisitions officer in the Collections Development Office.

White Pages Not Copyrightable

The white pages of a telephone book are not copyrightable and their use by a publisher is thus not an infringement, said the Supreme Court in a unanimous decision delivered March 27, which reversed an appellate court decision.

Feist Publications Inc. v. Rural Telephone Service Co. Inc. involved the unauthorized use of white pages originally published by Rural, a small public utility in Kansas. Feist, a publisher who specializes in areawide telephone directories, attempted to buy the use of Rural's white pages to include in a directory covering a larger geographic area. When Rural refused, Feist took what it needed and included those listings in its directory.

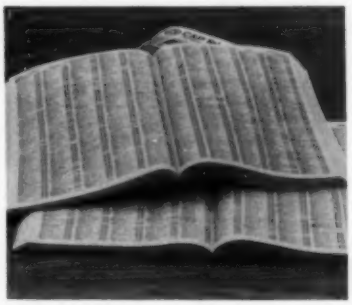
Rural sued and the District Court in Kansas granted summary judgment, holding that telephone directories are copyrightable. The Denver-based 10th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed.

While facts are not copyrightable, compilations of fact may qualify for protection. However, as the court said in a decision written by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, "The Copyright Act of 1976 and its predecessor, the Copyright Act of 1909, leave no doubt that originality is the touchstone of copyright protection in directories and other fact-based works.

"A compilation is not copyrightable *per se*, but is copyrightable only if its facts have been 'selected, coordinated, or arranged *in such a way* that the resulting work as a whole constitutes an original work of authorship.' "

The key phrase, said Justice O'Connor, is "in such a way." "Not every selection, coordination, or arrangement will pass muster. . . . Presumably, the vast majority of compilations will pass this test, but not all will. There remains a narrow category of works in which the creative spark is utterly lacking or so trival as to be virtually nonexistent."

Rural's alphabetical listing, said the court, belonged to the latter category



No copyright for white pages

and lacked the "minimal creative spark required by the Copyright Act and the Constitution." Justice O'Connor characterized it as "an age-old practice, firmly rooted in tradition and so commonplace that it has come to be expected as a matter of course."

In addition, it is "plausible to conclude that Rural did not truly 'select' to publish its subscribers and telephone numbers, since it was required to do so by state law."

Lower court decisions under the 1909 Act that adopted a "sweat of the brow" doctrine—which said that industrious work may extend copyright protection to compilations—"flouted basic copyright principles" and were clearly wrong.

The 1976 revisions clarified what was already true under the 1909 Act: "that copyright requires originality, that facts are never original, that copyright in a compilation does not extend to the facts it contains, and that a compilation is copyrightable only to the extent that it features an original selection, coordination, or arrangement."

The court said its decision should "not be construed as demeaning Rural's efforts in compiling its directory, but rather as making clear that copyright rewards originality, not effort."

The amount of money involved in the case was small—a $6,000 judgment was overturned—but business commentators are saying the implications may be large, especially for compilers and marketers of electronic data bases. The case attracted more than a dozen friend-of-the-court briefs. *—Ruth Sievers*

Copyright Office Amends Litigation Statement Form

The Copyright Office announced May 2 that it has amended the form it uses when granting requests for copies of copyright deposits in connection with litigation.

According to Copyright Office Assistant General Counsel Marilyn Kretsinger, the office decided to amend the form when "possible abuses of the existing Litigation Statement came to light." The amendments to the form do not reflect policy changes, but rather clarify existing policy.

"We made clear that even if the ligitation is prospective, the applicant still needs to give us certain facts," said Ms. Kretsinger. In addition, the amendments "make the form into a sworn statement."

Copies of Copyright Office deposits are made available only to copyright owners or their agents; under court order, where the deposits are the subject of litigation; or when the office receives a request from an attorney on behalf of either the plaintiff or defendant in connection with litigation, actual or prospective, involving the copyrighted work. In the last case, the requesting attorney submits the Litigation Statement.

The amended Litigation Statement requires an affirmation from the requestor that a controversy does exist, that the reproduction(s) will be used only in connection with actual or prospective litigation, and that the requestor acknowledges that any other use of the copy or reproduction would be in violation of the regulations of the Copyright Office and may be a criminal offense.

The amended Litigation Statement form still contains a reprint of the office regulations governing the request for copies, but now it also contains a reprint of the U.S. Code that makes it a crime to knowingly and willfully falsify, conceal or cover up by trick, scheme, or device a material fact in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States.

—Ruth Sievers

MEETINGS

Online User Group Presentation Summary

On April 24, the Online User Group (OUG) hosted a presentation by Paul Evan Peters on "Networked Information Resources and Services: Next Steps to the Distributed Digital Libraries of the 21st Century."

Mr. Peters is director of the Coalition for Networked Information, which, as an activity of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) under the direction of EDUCOM and CAUSE, has as its mission "to promote the creation of and access to information resources in networked environments in order to enrich scholarship and to enhance intellectual productivity."

The central theme of Mr. Peters' presentation was that "the often-predicted and long-awaited transition from information distribution and access by exclusively print means to information distribution and access by electronic as well as print means now depends upon a variety of institutional, organizational and marketplace 'readiness factors' more than it does upon any specific technological innovation and development."

Probably the most discussed new technology for information distribution is the global data network known as the Internet, and its proposed U.S. portion known as the NREN (National Research and Education Network). The promise of the Internet/NREN is due in large part to increased interconnectivity between data networks of different types and sizes, rapidly increasing numbers of networks and users being interconnected and dramatically increasing transmission capacity.

As an example of the latter, Mr. Peters said that in only a few years the NREN will have the theoretical capacity to transmit the full text of 5 million books in a little over a day. Mr. Peters noted that the scope and scale of the electronic infrastructure that is being built will be comparable to that of the nation's highways.

He also said that, until that system of virtual highways is built, using the numerous and diverse information resources found on the network will be more like "drinking from a firehose" than "driving on a superhighway."

Therefore, until the electronic infrastructure is built, and even after, there will be a need for information professionals to act as intermediaries for end-users and to add value to information being distributed and accessed in electronic as well as printed formats.

Contemporary examples of networked information resources and services are the computational resources, such as supercomputers; electronic mail, conferences and journals; data bases and digital libraries; and high-volume print facilities that offer full-text hard copy on demand. In the future they may include data base "knowbots"; and "intelligent" data bases that actively "learn."

Among the challenges faced by libraries that may be alleviated by the development of networked information resources and services are skyrocketing costs for materials (both monographs and serials), inadequate physical storage capacity for these materials and the underutilization of materials that have been acquired.

What role can librarians and the information industry play in fulfilling the promise of the impending technological changes? First there is a need to work together to build a "single information system image" so that end-users do not have to access systems with dissimilar user interfaces. Also it is time to merge the networking efforts of the library community, which resulted in the national on-line data bases of OCLC and RLG, with the more general purpose networks developed by "information technologists," which resulted in such networks as the Internet.

Other challenges that must be addressed: how to price information, how to arrange for payment, protecting copyright, regulating the emerging information industry and promoting research and development.

Mr. Peters can be contacted via the Internet at padler@umdc.bitnet.

LC Subject Subdivisions May Conference

The Library of Congress, with funding from the Council on Library Resources, on May 9-12 sponsored an invitational conference to address subdivision practice in the LC Subject Headings system (LCSH).

Forty-five people from all over the library community gathered to debate an issue on which there has never really been any agreement. The participants were charged with providing useful recommendations to the Library regarding the direction and focus of its efforts to simplify and improve the process of creating and assigning subject headings. The purpose of the conference was threefold:

☐ To make the assignment of subject headings more efficient;

☐ To enhance and encourage cooperative cataloging efforts; and

☐ To improve subject access for online public access catalog (OPAC) users.

Several working assumptions governed the conference deliberations:

☐ Libraries are functioning in an automated, on-line environment.

☐ The current generation of OPACs accommodates and supports keyword searching, Boolean operations, alphabetical browsing and a viable system of cross references.

☐ The national libraries are committed to cooperative cataloging.

☐ The recommended technique must support machine validation.

☐ The conference will make recommendations for the future and not be unduly constrained by current implementations and systems.

☐ Issues such as the form and language of LCSH, the implications for multiple thesauri, and the need for a subject cataloging code are out of the scope of this conference.

Four position papers were commissioned to serve as working documents for the conference. In addition, three responses were prepared for each paper addressing the pros, cons and automation implications of each proposal. The papers do not necessarily reflect the opinions of those who were asked to develop the position.

Proposal 1: **The Limited Use of Free-floating Subdivisions in the Library of Congress Subject Headings System.** Paper prepared by Mary K.D. Pietris, chief, Office for Subject Cataloging Policy, Library of Congress. Arnold Wajenberg, principal cataloger, University of Illinois Libraries, and Jessica Milstead responded with pro and con arguments, respectively. Kathleen Bales, manager, library applications, the Research Libraries Group Inc., described the proposal's automation implications.

Proposal 2: **The Expanded Use of Free-floating Subdivisions in the Library of Congress Subject Headings System.** Paper prepared by Martha O'Hara Conway, research analyst, Office for Technical Processes Research, Library of Congress, and Karen Markey Drabenstott, associate professor, School of Information and Library Studies, University of Michigan. Elaine Svenonius, professor, Graduate School of Information and Library Science, University of California at Los Angeles; and Mary Dykstra, director and professor, School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, responded with pro and con arguments, respectively. Bernard Hurley, director of library systems, University of California at Berkeley, described the automation implications of this proposal.

Proposal 3: **Alternatives to Subject Strings in the Library of Congress Subject Headings System.** Paper prepared by Lois Mai Chan, professor, College of Library and Information Science, University of Kentucky.

Jennifer Younger, assistant director for technical services, Ohio State University Libraries, and George Gibbs, assistant dean for technical services and collections, Watson Library, University of Kansas, responded with pro and con arguments, respectively. Stephen Davis, assistant director, library systems, Columbia University Libraries, described the automation implications of this proposal.

Proposal 4: **Streamlining Subdivision Selection and Establishing Strings as Headings in the Library of Congress Subject Headings System.** Paper prepared by Carol Mandel, director, technical services, Columbia University Libraries; Lee Leighton, head, Catalog Department, University Library, University of California at Berkeley; and Robert Wolven, assistant director, bibliographic control, Columbia University Libraries. Peri Schuyler, director, MeSH, National Library of Medicine; and Peter Lisbon, chief subject cataloger, Widener Library, Harvard University, responded with pro and con arguments, respectively. Diane Vizine-Goetz, research scientist, Office of Research, OCLC Inc., described the automation implications of this proposal.

Two other presentations provided additional context for the Subject Subdivisions Conference. Lynn El-Hoshy, subject cataloging policy specialist, Office for Subject Cataloging Policy, Library of Congress, provided a "tutorial" on free-floating subdivisions as they are used in the LCSH system. Her presentation was helpful in ensuring a common understanding of current subdivision practice. Karen Markey Drabenstott, associate professor, School of Information and Library Studies, University of Michigan, described in detail the various sources from which subdivisions appended to topical headings assigned to bibliographic records in the OCLC data base come. Her presentation, based on research funded by OCLC, reminded conference participants of the difficulties associated with machine validation of subject headings with free-floating subdivisions.

In part because the four proposals were not mutually exclusive, the recommendations that emerged from the conference are not based on a single proposal but rather on a convergence of the issues that were considered most important by the conference participants.

Consensus readily emerged on some recommendations, such as the recommendation that the Library of Congress continue the current policy of indirect geographic subdivision and the recommendation that subdivisions in the LCSH system be simplified.

Other recommendations, however, though endorsed in concept, proved difficult to articulate and are presented in less precise language. Still other issues, due primarily to the much-felt shortage of time, were not adequately addressed, such as the possibility of moving genre and form information into the 655/755 fields. It is hoped that, as implementation considerations arise, the "less clear" language will become more—if not crystal—clear.

Some of the recommendations call for specific changes to be implemented in the LCSH system and will require careful consideration by the Library of Congress, while other recommendations urge investigation into a particular issue on the part of the Library of Congress, the bibliographic utilities, various ALA committees and others.

In fact, some of the issues touched upon by the recommendations, while not explicitly discussed at the conference, are being otherwise addressed. The proposal to include the indirect form of geographic names in authority records for geographic headings is again before the Committee on Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information (MARBI), and a special subcommittee of the Subject Analysis Committee (SAC) has been formed to address the nature and use of "form subdivisions" in subject retrieval. Finally, it should be pointed out that the recommendations are not presented in any particular order.

It is hoped that this report provides those who did not have the advantage of attending the Subject Subdivisions Conference with at least some of the context necessary to a meaningful understanding of the recommendations. The recommendations have been endorsed by the conference participants who, after the conference, reviewed and commented on two successive versions of their recommendations. The final recommendations from the Subject Subdivisions Conference have been forwarded to Henriette D. Avram, associate librarian for Collections Services, Library of Congress. Comments on the recommendations will be accepted through Aug. 30, 1991, and should be addressed to Glen A. Zimmerman, Director for Technical Processes Research, Collections Services, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Recommendations from the Subject Subdivisions Conference

1. Under topical headings (as opposed to name or place headings), place, chronological, and form subdivisions shall be applied as needed and on an individual basis, based upon the judgment of the cataloger as to their appropriateness to the item being cataloged. If the cataloger chooses to apply subdivisions, the subdivisions should always appear in the following order: topical, geographic, chronological, form. This is not to suggest that each type of subdivision shall always be present under each heading; it is simply to specify a standard order for them when they are assigned.

When a nontopical subdivision element is expressed in a topical main heading, then as a general rule the main heading should be used rather than a subdivision under a topical heading. A topical heading should not receive geographic subdivision if it is used as a topical subdivision after geographic subject headings.

2. The developing "national authority file" should contain authority records for topical headings and for topical heading-topical subdivision(s) combinations. Further nontopical elements in any given string will not normally be established, unless such a record is desirable for cross-reference purposes. Authority records for headings containing subdivisions governed by pattern and free-floating lists will not require formal editorial review. Topical subdivision records and coding showing relationships between headings and topical subdivisions would be desirable features to help create the file and to assist validation.

The conference encourages the Library of Congress to continue and expand its programs by which other libraries contribute to a national subject authority file.

3. Chronological subdivisions under topical headings should relate to the coverage of the content of the item and not to its date of issue. LC should investigate using numerals as dates or date ranges in chronological subdivisions. The Library should consider the pros and cons of the use of free-form chronological subdivisions. Vendors and utilities should be encouraged to develop range searching capabilities.

4. The question of whether subdivisions should be coded specifically to improve online displays for end users should be considered by organizations such as the Network Development/MARC Standards Office at the Library of Congress, MARBI and SAC of the American Library Association and the utilities, among others. In particular, the Library of Congress should investigate implementing a separate subfield code for form subdivisions.

5. The current policy of indirect geographic subdivision should be continued. The Library should investigate including the indirect form of geographic headings in authority records for geographic names.

6. The conference strongly recommends that the Library simplify subdivisions in the LC Subject Headings system. Areas for simplication include the reduction of overly fine distinctions, the consolidation of lists, and an increase in consistency in syntax.

The conference acknowledges the potential impact of such changes on existing files, but the changes are of such importance that they should be made regardless of possible disruptions to existing data bases.

The conference urges the Library to pursue vigorously enhancements to its automated systems that could compensate for disruptions caused by these changes.

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ISSN 0041-7904

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